



## **MINUTES**

### **SUNNYVALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

**MAY 21, 2012**

The Sustainability Commission met in regular session in the West Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. with Chair Harrison presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Commission Members Present:**

Commission Chair Sue Harrison  
Commission Vice Chair Regina Wheeler  
Commissioner Barbara Fukumoto  
Commissioner Gerry Glaser  
Commissioner Dan Hafeman  
Commissioner Joe Green-Heffern  
Commissioner Amit Srivastava

**Council Liaison:** Councilmember Tara Martin-Milius (Present)

**Staff Present:** John Stufflebean, Director of Environmental Services  
Melody Tovar, Regulatory Programs Division Manager  
Jack Witthaus, Transportation/Traffic Manager  
Dustin Clark, Sustainability Coordinator, Staff Liaison

**Other:** Anthony Spitaleri, Mayor  
Christer Lindstrom, Encitra  
Mark Dure Smith, Swenson Solar  
Ron Swenson, Swenson Solar

#### **COMMISSIONER RECOGNITION**

Mayor Spitaleri and Councilmember Martin-Milius presented Commissioners Glaser and Fukumoto a Certificate of Appreciation for their service on the Sustainability Commission and for their civic engagement in commemoration of their term, which is completed in June.

#### **SCHEDULED PRESENTATION**

Christer Lindstrom with Encitra, Mark Dure Smith and Ron Swenson, both with Swenson Solar, gave a presentation to the commission about Pod Cars. Mr. Lindstrom presented a powerpoint presentation that illustrated the concept of a Pod Car and how it might look and operate in a City environment. Pod Cars are automated driverless vehicles that operate on elevated/underground shuttle networks and are powered with solar energy. Pod Cars differ from buses, trains or light rail in that they do not stop at each station on a track, but go directly

to their end destination. Mr. Lindstrom presented a video demonstration based on a model developed for and to be pursued in Uppsala, Sweden. The virtual presentation provided a visual concept of what a pod car might look like and how it would operate in Uppsala based on the actual layout of the city. Additionally, Mr. Lindstrom described a computer simulation program that has been developed that allows individuals to use their personal computer to log in and participate in the virtual program from a first person viewpoint and interact with the system. The presentation discussed some of the costs, barriers and planning that is necessary for implementation of the concept.

### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public announcements.

There were no announcements.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1.A. Approval of draft minutes of Sustainability Commission meeting of April 16, 2012.

**Commissioner Glaser moved and Commissioner Hafeman seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 16.**

**VOTE: 6-0-1 (Vote to approve was unanimous; Commissioner Srivastava abstained)**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. ACTION: Bus Rapid Transit

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Glaser commented that he thinks staff did an excellent job at taking something that is a very controversial topic and looking at it and recommending a plan to build the city around going forward, knowing it can't be done one thing at a time. Commissioner Glaser commented that the eight additional conditions are a good starting place, and help identify priorities to use seed money and provide the City a plan that can be developed over time.

Commissioner Fukumoto commented that staff deserves thanks for the skill with which the report addresses the concerns of the community, BPAC and Council members. Commissioner Fukumoto expressed that she was especially enthusiastic about Condition F, Community-Based Transportation Study. Commissioner Fukumoto wanted it noted that the VTA projections appear conservative because the VTA models exclude the potential rise in fuel costs. Commissioner Fukumoto commented that she is supportive of the motion because it aligns with many of Sunnyvale's key policies and the City's vision including the Grand Boulevard Initiative vision. Commissioner Fukumoto is supportive of the motion because it makes El Camino Real more cost effective, stretching tax payer dollars and, because together with enhanced development of the corridor, regional greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced.

Commissioner Hafeman commented that he would be enthusiastically supporting the motion. Commissioner Hafeman views this as a way to get desperately needed bike lanes included on El Camino Real. Commissioner Hafeman commented that Bus Rapid Transit is a good first step in improved transportation because if there are dedicated lanes the system can be electrified much easier in the future. Commissioner Hafeman commented that if ridership increases substantially it's a natural step to put in rails and convert to a light rail system in the future. Commissioner Hafeman commented that Bus Rapid Transit is a good technology. Commissioner Hafeman commented it is important for Council to recognize, given many of the concerns raised by the public, that the current action being taken isn't approving the project and there is still the opportunity in the future to determine if the Bus Rapid Transit makes sense.

Commission Chair Harrison commented that she would be enthusiastically supporting the motion. Chair Harrison commented that the economic development that Bus Rapid Transit will bring in targeted, designated areas that the future Land Use and Transportation Element of the General Plan and El Camino Real Precise Plan have already laid out is alone worth the City's participation. Chair Harrison commented that she sees no alternative for moving the future increased population without dedicated-lane BRT. Chair Harrison commented that the bike and pedestrian improvements that will result make this project worthwhile. Chair Harrison commented that the leveraging of outside money to get an area-wide transportation plan and a Community-Based Transportation study makes the plan worthwhile.

**Commissioner Glaser moved and Commissioner Green-Heffern seconded a motion to recommend Council enthusiastically support the staff recommendation of Alternative 2 in Report to Council 12-131 regarding Bus Rapid Transit .**

**Vote 7-0 (Vote was unanimous)**

Commissioner Wheeler commented that in order for the system to work that the City needs to know how much of a burden it is for bicycles and pedestrians to actually get to the system since they are the ones who will be using the system.

Commissioner Fukumoto commented that the bicycle and pedestrian component of the system will be increasing important going forward.

**Commissioner Wheeler moved and Commissioner Glaser seconded a motion to clarify that Condition F of the staff report include needs for bicycle and pedestrian access as part of the Community-Based Transportation Study.**

**VOTE 7-0 (Vote was unanimous)**

2. DISCUSSION: City Manager's Proposed Budget

The Commission commented on the difficulty of providing comments on the budget as it is such a large document. The Commission requested that the City provide guidance and instruction to help them review the budget in the future so they can provide meaningful comments.

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

3. ACTION: Commission Community Choice Aggregation Subcommittee Selection

Staff initiated a temporary Commission Subcommittee to investigate Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) and assisting staff in understanding issues and the future viability of a CCA program in Sunnyvale as a component of the Climate Action Plan.

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

**Commissioner Fukumoto moved and Commissioner Hafeman seconded a motion to appoint Commissioners Glaser, Wheeler and Srivastava to the Sustainability Commission Community Choice Aggregation Subcommittee.**

**VOTE 7-0 (Vote was unanimous)**

4. ACTION: Selection of Commission Representative for Lawrence Station Plan Phase 2  
Citizen Advisory Group

**Commissioner Green-Heffern moved and Commissioner Glaser seconded a motion to appoint Chair Sue Harrison as the Sustainability Commission representative to the Lawrence Station Area Plan Citizen Advisory Group.**

**VOTE 7-0 (Vote was unanimous)**

## **NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS**

### **Commissioner Oral Comments**

Commissioner Hafeman inquired as to whether the City can turn off every other light on the Mathilda Overpass as they seem consume a great deal of energy.

Commissioner Hafeman commented on a dangerous situation impacting the bicycle lane at the new Evelyn Avenue off ramp as a result of newly created medians. Commissioner Hafeman inquired how that happened. Commissioner Hafeman asked if BPAC had a chance to review the plan and comment. Commissioner Hafeman wonders if it was a process breakdown and if there is something that can be done to fix the situation.

Commissioner Green-Heffern attended a BRT engagement, Cool Cities meeting and a local presentation on the Safe Routes to School Bike/Walk.

### **Staff Comments**

Sustainability Coordinator Clark provided the Commission an update on a municipal operations greenhouse gas inventory project. The project has been a partnership with Joint Venture Silicon Valley, De Anza College Interns and the City to develop an operational emissions inventory based on ICLEI's Local Government Operations Protocol. The results are expected toward the end of the academic term.

Sustainability Coordinator Clark provided preliminary results of an employee commute survey recently conducted. Approximately 240 employees responded. The results of the survey will be included in the emission inventory.

Division Manager Tovar reminded the Commission that next month's Commission meeting will be held at the Water Pollution Control Plant.

Division Manager Tovar provided the Commission an update on progress for an events calendar that was requested by the Commission to inform Commissioners of events that may be of interest to Commissioners or the public.

## **INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin Clark, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

Reviewed by: John Stuffbean, Director of Environmental Services  
Melody Tovar, Regulatory Programs Division Manager